(d) whether the allegations against the present Chairman, of misfeasance, relating to the period when he was director of Aicok Ashdown Company Limited, have come to the notice of Government; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that there was a CBI enquiry pending against him and his passport had been impounded on the recommendations of the CBl?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) As on 19-9-86. Shri Kashinath Tapuriah, Chairman, M|s. Incab Industries Ltd. held 25.000 equity shares of the above company.

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) No Sir The number of shares proposed to be purchased was 253000.

(c) No.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) On the basis of request received from C.B.I, passport No. J-994980 dated 18.4.75 issued to Shri Kashinath Tapuriah So Late Rai Bahadur Manglii-!a] Tapuriah was ordered to be impounded by the Regional Passport Officer Calcutta.

Appointment of Chief Justice

3326. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state;

(a) what are the various difficulties and problems which the Government face in filling up the vacancies of High Court Judges due to which considerable delay lias been caused; and

(b) whether Government propose to appoint as judges and Chief Justice persons with good knowledge of regional lang uage of the State in which they arc ap pointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRl H. R. BHARDWAJ); (a) Appointment of judges is made in consultation with the authorities specified in Article 217(1) of the Constitution. The process of consultation in some cases takes some time.

(b) Appointment of persons as Judges is made after assessing their suitability from all angles. Appointments|transfers of Chief Justices of High Courts are made in pursuance of the. policy of hav ing Chief Justices from outside, keeping in view all relevant aspects.

Optical Fibre Cables project in Orissa

3327. SHRI BASUDEB MOHA-PATRA; SHRI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to staite.

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal from the Government of Orissa for the location of an Optical Fibre Cables and Systems Projects in the State is pending Govt.'s approval:

(b) if so, what would be the cost of the project; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN *THE* DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DE VELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHA-LAM): (a) No, Sir.

(a) and (c) Do not arise.

Corruption charges against BHEL

Director

3328. SHRI KAILASH PATI MI SHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a list of corruption charges against the Director (Technical) of BHEL. Bhopal Plant, w as submitted to the Government; and

(b) whether the charges were enquired into by a Central agency; if so. what are the charges the results of the investiga tions and action taken in pursuance there of?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) There is no post of Director (Technical) at BHEL, Bhopal Plant.

(b) Does not arise.

Retirement age of public sector executives

3329. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the retirement age of senior officers in public sector undertakings under his Ministry including Directors and Chair man':

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number o*t* senior public sector executives are still continuing in service even after crossing the supreannuation age, if so, the names of sich officers, their age designa tion, name of public undertaking, location salary and perks enjoyed by these execu tives; and

(c) whether in January, 1983, Government ordered for the termination of services of all such executives?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The retirement age in respect of Board-level appointees in public sector undertakings is 58 years. The retirement age of officers of below Board-level is also 58 years but in a few public sector undertakings, which are taken-over companies, the retirement age of executives who joined prior to nationalisation, is 60 years.

(b) and (c) Instructions were issued in February, 1983, to public sector undertakings not to grant extension and give re-employment to superannuated persons. They had' also been advise^ that whenever any extension or re-employment of superannuated persons is inescapable, approval of the Appointments Committee of Cabinet is required in respect of posts where the pay (including pension and pensionary equivalent of retirement benefits) proposed to be allowed to such person exceeds Rs. 2,500/- per month or where the minimum of the pay scale proposed to be given to sncti person is Rs 2,500/- or more

Information regarding the names, age, ' designation, salary and perks of the senior executives in public sector undertakings who are still continuing in service after superannuation as well as the names of the public sector undertakings, their location etc. are not readily available. It will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Bye-elections to legislatures while litigation 's pending in Supreme Court

3330. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAw AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bye-elections to legislature can be held if relevant litigation is pen-ding in the Supreme Court; and

(b) whether it is the duty of the Election Commission to ensure such scrutiny?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Depletion of forests by paper mills

3331. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware ot the vast depletion of forcsts by paper mills:

(b) what arc the schemes being im-plemented to foster alternative sources of raw material for paper mills and

(c) what is the present stage of im plementation of such schemes

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DE VELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHA LAM): (a) There are a number of fac tors depletiem of fores's. This cannot be attributed solely to paper mills although forests are an important source of raw material for the paper in dustry.